

EASTCHESTER CREEK, NEW YORK.

JANUARY 22, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HOOKER, from the Committee on Rivers and Harbors, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 10012.]

The Committee on Rivers and Harbors, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10012) relating to the improvement of Eastchester Creek, State of New York, having had the same under consideration, report the same back and recommend that the bill do pass.

The improvement of the stream to which this bill relates has been in progress for many years, and numerous appropriations have been made therefor. The river and harbor bill passed at the first session of this Congress appropriated \$12,000 to continue improvement in accordance with the report of the Chief of Engineers. A provision was also included in the river and harbor bill for additional surveys to extend the improvement to the head of tide water, a distance of about 2,000 feet. Such survey has been made. The proposed extension will carry the improvement to one of the main thoroughfares of Mount Vernon, a city of more than 20,000 population, and into the heart of the territory the improvement is designed to benefit.

The purpose of the present bill is to enable the Secretary of War to use his discretion whether it be advisable to expend any portion of the former appropriation upon that part of the improvement embraced in the new surveys. It makes no additional appropriation.

Your committee are of the opinion that the Secretary of War should not be forced to expend all of the \$12,000 appropriation upon a specified portion of the work in case he should deem it in the interest of economy or advisable to expend it upon the whole improvement.

Your committee therefore feel justified in recommending favorable action on the bill.